

YOUNG
LADIES & GENTLEMEN'S
HYMENEAL INSTRUCTOR;

OR, THE PHILOSOPHY OF
Love, Courtship and Marriage;
WITH AN APPENDIX OF
Model Letters, Rules of Politeness, and the Lan-
guage of the Finger-Ring.



BLISS OF MATRIMONY.

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THE

Young Ladies & Gentlemen's

HYMENEAL

INSTRUCTOR:

OR, THE

Philosophy of Love, Courtship and
Marriage;

SHOWING THE TIME TO MARRY; THE REQUISITES
OF A GOOD WIFE; THE MANNER OF COURT-
ING; POPPING THE QUESTION; THE
WEDDING NIGHT; CONJUGAL
DUTIES; REMARKS UPON
REARING THE LITTLE
ONES, ETC.

BY QUIZ.

BOSTON:

1847.

DEDICATORY

THIS little manual upon *Family Matters* is respectfully dedicated by the author, to all the **YOUNG LADIES** and **GENTLEMEN**, **OLD BACHELORS**, **MARRIED MEN** and **WOMEN** in Christendom, with the hope that they may get much good from it perusal.



“What God hath joined together, let no man
put asunder.”

HOLY BIBLE.

INTRODUCTION.

GENERAL REMARKS.

No well founded doubt can exist as to the importance of the subject presented in these pages. Whether it is viewed as affecting the interest of communities, or of individuals, it is equally pregnant with matter of grave moment.

But few properly consider the importance of the matrimonial contract, but choose a wife with about as much consideration as they would select a horse or a dog; all moral and mental excellencies are lost sight of in the magical charms of a *pretty face*. Such marriages are little better than a lottery and usually turn up a blank, rather than a prize.

That there is more real happiness in the married than there is in the single state, cannot be controverted—true, while youth lasts, the *theatre*, ball-room, and other similar amusements will make up a tolerable degree of “single blessed-

ness;" but youth does not always last, and time renders all such pleasures dull and insipid, and when the solitary man is satiated with the world and would partake of something more rational and pure, he looks about and sighs for *home*—but alas for him, he has none.

How different with the happy married man—he is never lonely or solitary; his home is his kingdom, and 'tis there he finds his rest for every pleasure, and a balmy consolation for every sorrow. In prosperity he knows where to find a true heart to rejoice with, and in adversity one that will encourage and console him; in old age he is not forsaken and alone—his children cluster around to shelter and defend—an arm is ready for his support—upon them he leans, and is thus let down gently to the grave amid the affectionate tears of those who linger at his dying couch, until his aged heart becomes motionless in death's icy arms.

Dear reader, exercise caution and an intelligent prudence in the choice of a companion and we shall have your additional verdict in favor of marriage.

HYMENEAL INSTRUCTOR.

CHAPTER I.

SHOWING THE TIME OF MARRIAGE.

It is not easy to decide at what age a man ought to marry, yet upon mature reflection we are inclined to favor early marriages, and for reasons which we will assign.

1st. Tastes are formed and habits acquired more easily in youth than mature age; this, we doubt not will be readily conceded; it is very seldom that we find two minds nearly alike, perhaps there never was a pair who did not differ materially in many points. Experience, however, teaches that when parties associate constantly as in the married state, an amalgamation of tastes and feelings take place, and as in youth, the mind is more flexible, there is a greater chance of a harmonious union of temper and habit. The fresh ardor of affection makes the one avoid whatever

is offensive to the [other, so that that which at first required a little self-restraint soon becomes easy and natural.

2d. Another reason for early marriages is, that they tend essentially to guard a man from dissipation. The truth of this is so self evident that it needs no proof. We would peril its truth upon the decision of every bachelor between the ages of twenty and thirty-five. Depraved indeed must be that man whom the thought of a young, loving and confiding wife would not draw from the wine cup ere the die was cast. Who could withstand such appeals?

3d, early marriages are advisable if considered in a prudential point of view. When people talk of the expenses of a married establishment, they seem to forget the fact, that there is no housekeeper equal to a good wife. She is a man's best and most faithful steward; and unless her tastes are expensive or habits extravagant, she will make a pound go farther than five would with a bachelor. Marriage will give a spur to his exertions; he will rise earlier in the morning and sit later at night; he will pursue his calling with redoubled energy, because he has those to provide for who must suffer without his exertions. In the matter therefore of pounds, shillings and pence, the married man is the gainer for wedlock furnishes the strongest conceivable incentive to make efforts for gain.

Some people arrive to comparative maturity sooner than others, so that no arbitrary rule can be laid down as to the *marrying time*; as a gen

eral thing, however, we would say that from twenty-three to twenty-six is the best age for males; and for females, from twenty to twenty-three. This is sufficiently early, and experience shows that those unions are the most pleasing in their results which are formed about the period we have recommended.

An eminent writer says: "We rarely meet with women married under twenty, with three or four children, who do not exhibit at thirty, all the marks of age common to forty-five and fifty, and who are not the victims of chronic disease."

But we would not preclude those of riper years from the joys of matrimony. It is never too late to do well—only let those advanced in years avoid mating with a person the opposite of his habits and much his junior in years. Remember what Shakespeare says:

"Crabbed age and youth
Cannot live together."

CHAPTER II.

THE REQUISITES OF A GOOD WIFE.

THIS is by far the most important part of our subject, and we shall endeavor in a few words to treat it in a plain and practical manner.

1st. The first requisite of a wife we shall mention is a similarity of condition. Care should be taken that she be neither above nor below the rank of life we expect permanently to maintain. An excess either way is pregnant with probable consequences equally pernicious and opposed to a rational chance of enduring happiness. He who weds much below his station runs the risk of being exposed to a thousand disagreeable circumstances which he had not calculated upon. Nor is it much better with the wife, for she finds herself constantly introduced into society, the forms of which hang like a "felon's fetters" upon her enjoyment.

2d. Another requisite of a wife is that she be of a suitable age. Disparity in this matter should always be avoided; for what is more repugnant than to see youth and old age linked together? Such unions are unnatural and usually carry their own punishment with them. The richest dowry cannot purchase love. The old man who weds a youthful bride may on his return from the nuptial altar, find his house "swept and garnished," but the devil of discord and jealousy will most likely enter with him to poison and pollute every stream of his fancied pleasure.

3d. Another qualification for a wife is an acquaintance with domestic duties so far as the management or regulation of the house is concerned. If she be in circumstances to employ servants, we would not ask her to compound a pudding, or make ready a steak with her own hands—yet she should know the nature of such

operations in order to instruct the ignorance or check the carelessness of her help, and it is a false and pitiful pride which would feel hurt by being supposed to have a knowledge of such duties. No female can be injured, and many may be essentially benefited by such knowledge; for a reverse of fortune may bring such knowledge into practical use, and such an event should not go unprovided for.

4th. As an important requisite in a wife, we should not lose sight of health and a sound constitution. This is a matter of surpassing importance. In no age of the world has constitutional and hereditary diseases so much prevailed as at the present time; and may not the cause in a great measure be traced to a union of sickly and diseased persons? The carelessness displayed by many of both sexes in this matter seems little less than a species of judicial infatuation, and such need not wonder, should their house become a domestic infirmary, and each succeeding birth add another new patient to their care.

5th. An important requisite in a wife is, that she be of the same sentiment with you in matters of religion. Where there is a disagreement in religious belief and profession, there is not apt to be found that reciprocity of feeling and affection which gives an increased attraction to the married state. A "house divided against itself" in a matter so essential, promises but little abiding stability.

6th. The only other requisite we will mention is that of uncompromising virtue. Sound virtue

helps to control the passions, direct the inclinations and confine desires into proper and reasonable limits. We may lay it down, therefore, as an incontrovertible maxim, that no union can long continue where virtue is not the guiding star.

CHAPTER III.

MANNER OF COURTING.

COURTSHIP has been termed the concentration of the romance of life. And upon what period of life does the setting sun of our days fall with a kindler radiance than this? Who can say the poet does not speak truly when he says—

“Sure, courtship is the fairy land of earth,
Its rivers murmur sweeter melody,
O'er channels paved with gems of lustrous hue.”

When love has fairly taken possession of a man, he ceaseth to be his own master. Everything is viewed through a gorgeously colored medium, which blinds and obscures the grosser realities of life. He sees the object of his affection not as a common mortal, subject to errors and failings—to him,

“She walks abroad in beauty's might,
Commanding nature's homage.”

Love, like fire, is a good servant, but a miserable master; to make a dangerous leap in the dark, is no more unwise than to follow exclusively the dictates of love.

The great proportion of unmarried ladies are more or less actresses whenever a suitor is in prospect; and the mothers, (dear souls) ever anxious for their daughters, are ever at the side scenes to prompt and direct the enactment of the drama. In speaking thus, we would not be understood as depreciating the morality of the sex—for to put the “best foot forward” in these matters, is only acting true to nature; it is proper therefore for a prudent man to keep his “eyes open” in choosing a wife. Before popping the question, he should contemplate the object of his regard in every variety of shade; he should view her not only at the ball-room, the theatre and other public gatherings—for there every passion is held in durance; but he should call upon her suddenly and at an unexpected time—you will be able thus to form some tolerable estimate of her every day domestic neatness and habits. If there be any latent feverishness or ill-nature lurking under her fair surface, you will detect it by suitable care—“straws show which way the wind blows.” Would you know her literary taste, invite her to a book store to select a suitable volume as a present to your sister. In a similar way you may learn whether she is actuated by expensive habits of dress, &c. Play your part well, and you will not fail to learn the working of her mental machinery.

Reader, think us not foolish if we counsel you to bring to your aid the important science of *phrenology*, for we believe it may be relied on with great certainty.

A shrewd girl may rouge and pearl-powder her face into the semblance of meekness, but she cannot obliterate the organs which God has given her.

The fair infidel may play the outward devotee to perfection, but the organ of veneration will show her hypocrisy. *Combe* and *Cupid* should never be fellow travellers—and by trusting to *Gal* you will keep clear of *wormwood*. Discard *phrenology*, and the most effectual guiding staff through the quick-sands of courtship is lost to you.

CHAPTER IV.

POPPING THE QUESTION.

It is now assumed that you have satisfied yourself as to the disposition and qualifications of the object of your affections, and that you have screwed up your courage to the *asking* point.

The modes of *popping the question* are—
 1. Through the medium of a third person; 2. In writing; 3. Directly and in person to the lady. We do not hesitate to recommend the latter as the most suitable. It will afford you the bes

opportunity to judge of the true state of your sweet-heart's affections. In a personal interview you will discern many little land-marks which may guide you to a knowledge of the true condition of matters. The eye then speaks with a truthfulness not to be mistaken, and at a single glance you may read volumes; and a certain returned pressure of the hand is more pregnant with meaning than a whole portfolio of letters. The precise words to be employed must be suggested by the occasion. We once knew a gentleman to quote an expressive passage of scripture as follows: "*If thy heart is with my heart, as my heart is with thy heart, give me thy hand.*"

CHAPTER V.

THE WEDDING NIGHT.

THE question of marriage finally determined, there is much to do before the performance of the ultimate ceremony. The arrangements for the wedding night being mostly by third persons who have had some experience in such matters, there is little left in which the bridegroom has much say or control. The less display and ostentation the better—gross and vulgar minds may be flattered by a huge display of ribbons and vain show, but true delicacy shrinks from

such ill-timed exhibitions. The ceremony should be one of solemnity, rather than one of undue festivity, as it is a matter of incalculable moment to the temporal interests of the contracting parties. We would not have the ceremony one of gloom and sadness, where there should be no rustling silks or blooming rose wreaths, but we would have mirth tempered with a becoming gravity.

Preparatory to the wedding night, a suitable house should be provided and measures taken to set up a domestic establishment.

In doing this great care should be taken to keep within your means; for if you get into debt at the beginning of your married life, the chances are that it will hang like a mill-stone about your neck for years, and your difficulties increasing with every succeeding year. Let your expenses be rather within or below your means, than above them. As you succeed in business, you can with a much better grace increase than decrease.

For some time prior to the wedding night associate with none whom you would not be pleased to introduce to your wife at the promenade or public assembly. With this fact before you, be cautious who you invite to the wedding as a marriage card is understood as a desire for continued intimacy. There are but few single men who do not have their "hail fellow, well met" associates, but they have no claim on the account to continued intimacy, or an introduction to the married fireside.

CHAPTER VI.

CONJUGAL DUTIES.

As love was the magnet which first drew you to the mistress, so love should be the connecting chain which binds you to the wife. Would you have your union permanently happy, continue to conduct yourself in some sense, as a suitor. We would not, as a husband, have you continually enacting the lover—ever making a profuse display of kisses and sickly fawning, especially in the presence of others; such a course would only lower you in the estimation of your wife, if a sensible woman. But it should be borne in mind that affection is a delicate flower, and one easily blasted by the cold frost of indifference.

Never forget what your wife has suffered for your sake. She has left *father* and *mother* to share your fortunes. She has bidden adieu to the home of her childhood. She has parted with a brother's protection and a sister's love, and all this for your sake. She has thrown the casket of her happiness into your lap; and certainly it is not too much that you should be a considerate and kindly banker of the treasure.

A few particulars of conjugal duty we will briefly mention. The husband should always bear in mind that the woman is the weaker vessel, and that his duty calls to the exercise of the virtues of patience and forbearance towards her faults and failings. Be not too hasty to resent an unguarded expression or inconsiderate ac

Resist her not in trifles, else you learn her ere long, to oppose your desires in matters more important.

Make a companion of your wife, in the fullest sense of the term, and endeavor to suit your conversation to her taste and intellect. Study diligently the art of pleasing; cultivate those thousand nameless little attentions which are so much prized by the sex, and learn to manifest at least an interest in whatever occupies her attention.

The husband should be as much at home as possible. Nothing can be more distressing to a young wife, than the frequent and apparent unnecessary absence from home of her spouse. Unsettled habits in this respect will soon excite suspicion in her mind, that the flame of affection begins to burn low, and that she has lost the power of pleasing. We can of course lay down no positive rule, but as a general thing, your evenings should be spent at home. If the fireside has no charms at the commencement of a union, we have reason to fear it never will.

We would advise that you lay out for but little company. Frequent parties draw heavily upon the purse—but the outlay is not the least of the evil, for the mind acquires an unsteadiness which seriously disturbs the quiet enjoyments of domestic life. Moderate hospitality is always becoming and harmless, while a taste for company too much indulged, will lead you ere long, to seek for pleasure anywhere rather than at a quiet home.

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You should also be guarded as to the character of those whom you invite to your home.

A married man who indiscriminately retains his bachelor acquaintances, acts a very foolish and inconsistent part; most cases of seduction which come under our observation, are perpetrated by the husband's professed friend. "Evil communications corrupt good manners."

CHAPTER VII.

REARING THE LITTLE ONES.

CHILDREN have been called the corner stones of the matrimonial edifice, and as a general thing the want of offspring is considered a misfortune. The man who has no love of children should never marry, as he would only prove a sort of social monster, quite unfit to act a most important part in the domestic drama.

A mother's love to her offspring is instinctly strong; it scarcely has bounds or limits, and you can do nothing so pleasing as to *praise the baby*, and the younger it is the more she values the compliment. Say ever so fine things to her, and take no notice of the baby and she will despise you. To find yourself a *father* and destitute of the love of children, would be a most unenviable condition, and subject you to

the risk of alienating from yourself the affection of the mother.

You should early make companions of your children ; interest yourself in their trifling cares and amusements, and cause them to feel that whatever pleases them is not uninteresting to you.

It is thus that a bond of union will be formed between you, which will be strengthened with every succeeding year. If you act as a task master, you must expect very imperfect obedience, as fear is usually accompanied with an inclination to deceive.

Many parents make their children habitual liars by an improper exercise of authority ; children expect a reason for an act as well as men, and hence they should not be too much restrained in trifling matters, nor should an arbitrary veto be put upon any particular amusement.

You should be particular to observe the dispositions and tastes of your children, in regard to their future profession or employment. But few pay a proper attention to this. Children are too often destined from birth, to the pulpit, the bar, the profession of medicine, or the army, without once consulting their tastes or habits. Whenever a child shows an interest in any occupation or pursuit, carefully cultivate and foster it ; make yourself master of whatever subject interests him, and take frequent occasion to present it to his mind in a pleasing and attracting form.

Would you be judicious and prudent, let your

style of living be suited to the future prospects of your family. How often is it that a respectable family of daughters remain unmarried, for no other reason than that their parents live in a showy and expensive style. Those who would be suitors feel that they cannot support a corresponding style, and that it would be improper in them to deprive a wife of those comforts which she has been accustomed to enjoy from her youth. An expensive style of living when there is no real wealth, must cease in a reverse of fortune; or at best, such incomes end when the father dies.

It is better to live a little below than above our means, providing that an appearance is kept up befitting your rank in society. It will be better for you, and far better for the offspring whom you leave behind you.

In conclusion, we would recommend that a select family library be always provided. Books are either nutritious food or baneful poison; care should therefore be taken to select only those that will prove a real blessing to your household—such as will lead to the love and practice of virtue, and enlarge and dignify the mind. Above all, let not the Bible be a stranger to your dwelling; it is the word of God, and will guide our feet into the way of peace.

CONCLUSION.

Thus, kind reader, we “wind up,” our little homily upon family matters. What we have said will do you good we trust—if you study it as a text book, it will serve to guide you o’er the dangerous sea of Love, Courtship and Marriage. It will enable you, if often consulted, to steer clear of those rocks and quicksands upon which so many have made shipwreck of anticipated blessedness, and in this consolatory reflection we find the reward of our toils. And now as a reciprocated favor, will you not purchase a copy of our sayings, and thus put another well earned penny into our almost empty pocket? We shall see—farewell—may the choicest sweets of the “honey moon” ever abide with you!





THE LOVE LETTER.

APPENDIX.

MODEL LETTERS.

The following plans of letters have been carefully arranged, and by a slight change in the phraseology may be made to meet the exigency of any occasion which the routine of courtship and marriage call for.

From a Gentleman to a Lady with whom he is in love.

MADAM:—I have often attempted to give you a verbal relation of the subject of this letter, but my heart has failed me. I know not in what light you have considered me, but I must frankly avow that your many amiable accomplishments have won my heart; and I need not add that my happiness in this world will greatly depend upon the nature of your answer to this letter. If you do not utterly reject my suit, may I not hope that you will enquire into my circumstances and character, and hereafter allow me the frequent pleasure of your society, not merely as a friend, but lover. Do not long delay an answer, as I shall wait with much impatience.

I am, Madam, your real admirer,

Lady's answer to a Gentleman from whom she has received proposals of Courtship.

SIR:—The attentions which you have so long and assiduously shown me have not escaped my observation ; and I confess, that pleased and flattered by such attention I had already persuaded myself that they were indicative of more than ordinary attachment. Your letter has dispelled all doubt—your circumstances and character have been considered, and as my parents, whom I have consulted do not object, I may freely say that I shall take great pleasure in regarding you as my acknowledged suitor.

I am yours, sincerely attached,

A Lady refusing proposals of a suitor.

SIR:—Your letter has filled me with much surprise ; yet I may assure you that I feel quite flattered by your preference of me, and your wish for a better acquaintance ; but with the most kindly feelings of regard toward you, I beg respectfully to decline your addresses. My reasons I will not name unless they are particularly desired. With my best wishes for your future welfare, allow me to subscribe myself

Yours, most respectfully,

Gentleman to a Lady wishing to discontinue her addresses, or breaking off a match.

MY DEAR MADAM:—You have doubtless noticed my inattention of late, and have probably understood it as an indication of declining attachment; if so, you will not be surprised when I tell you that our mutual happiness and prosperity demands that all farther correspondence between us should be suspended. The reason will be given if called for: your letters shall all be disposed of as you direct. Whatever may be your future lot in life, be assured that in me you will always find a steadfast friend, and with this assurance I must bid you a respectful adieu, and entreat you will believe me

Ever yours in friendship,

Lady's answer to a Gentleman "wishing to decline his addresses, or break off a match."

DEAR SIR:—I acknowledge the receipt of your letter in which you declare the necessity of discontinuing our correspondence &c. Until now I have regarded you in the light of my future husband, and have conceived a sincere and ardent affection for you; but deem me not so devoid of pride and self-respect as to wish you to revoke your determination. Conscious of my own virtue and integrity, I do not ask for the reason of your strange conduct. Be assured

sir, I shall endeavor to banish you from my affections as readily and completely as you seem to have banished me. I have only to ask that you will return to me the letters which I have been foolish enough to write under the mistaken belief that you were deserving of my confidence and esteem.

I am, sir, your humble servant,

Lady to a Gentleman, declining his further addresses.

SIR:—You have not failed to notice of late a change in my manner and speech amounting perhaps to coolness, and you will be therefore the less surprised at the receipt of this letter which is to inform you that your addresses to me must henceforth cease. 'Tis true many protestations of attachment have passed between us, but your late conduct has convinced me that on your part those professions were insincere. I hereby return your letters, as also several little presents which honor forbids me longer to consider as mine, and which were received when I regarded you as incapable of deception. Your sense of honor, I trust, will prompt you to return my letters on the receipt of this.

I am sir, yours in disappointment,

Gentleman to his Lady's father, asking his consent to their marriage.

MY DEAR SIR:—You have doubtless been long aware of a subsisting intimacy between your daughter and myself, and will not be much surprised at the contents of this letter, which is to ask your consent to our union in marriage. My circumstances and character are known to you, and I trust not unfavorably. May we not expect that you will favor our request, and thus hasten the consummation of our happiness in the nuptial tie. An immediate answer will be gratefully received.

Affectionately yours,

POLITE TEACHER.

A letter of introduction, note of invitation, or reply should always be enclosed in an envelope.

A letter of introduction should always enclose the card and address of the person introduced.

Notes of invitation should always be sent in the name of the lady of the house.

Invitations should be answered within two days.

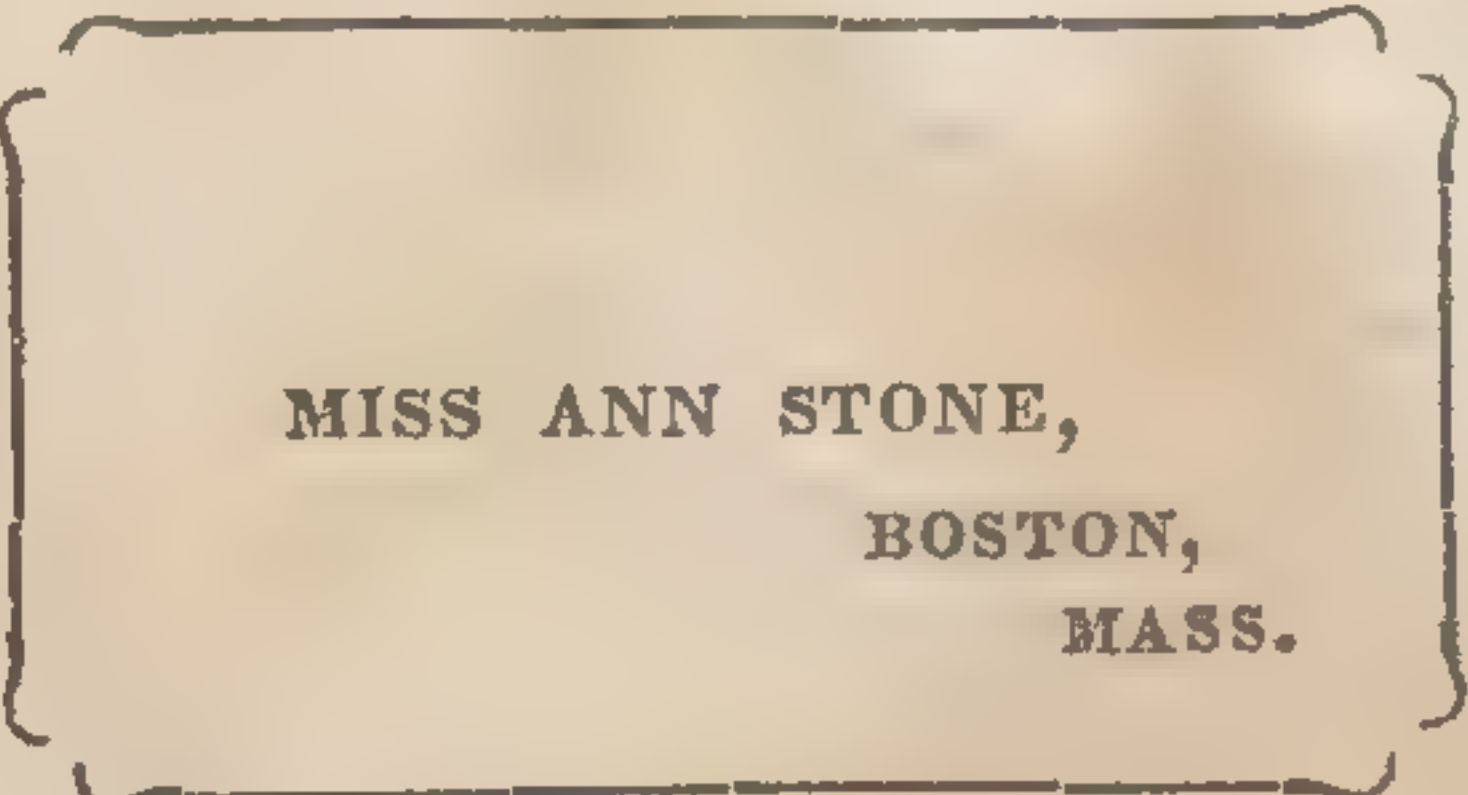
Notes of invitation should not be sealed.

Figured and colored paper is out of style—pure white paper, with gilt edges is more strictly in good taste.

It is considered a mark of respect to commence a letter towards the middle of the page.

Printed cards should be used when the party is large.

All letters should be sealed and superscribed as in the following example. It gives room for the post-mark without defacing the superscription.



MISS ANN STONE,
BOSTON,
MASS.

MODELS OF INVITATION CARDS AND NOTES

The usual form is simply:

Mrs. ——— requests the pleasure of Mr. and Mrs. ——— company on Thursday evening at 8 o'clock.

Separate notes should be sent to the sons and daughters if their company is wished.

The answer should be as follows:

Mr. and Mrs. ——— accept with pleasure Mrs. ——— invitation for Thursday evening next.

If a refusal is sent, it should be expressed thus:

Mr. and Mrs. —— regret that it will not be in their power to accept Mr. and Mrs. —— invitation for Thursday evening next.

The date should always be put at the bottom of the note on the left hand side.

LANGUAGE OF THE FINGER RING.

If a Gentleman wants a wife, he wears a ring on the first finger of the left hand.

If he is engaged he wears it on the second finger.

If married, he wears it on the third finger.

If he never intends to get married, he wears it on the fourth finger.

When a Lady is not engaged, she wears a hoop or diamond on her first finger.

If engaged, she wears it upon the second finger.

If married, she wears it upon the third finger.

If she intends to remain a maid, she wears her ring upon her fourth finger.

Thus by a few simple tokens the passion of love is expressed.

THE END.

